

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A hand-held instrument comprising a business end and a handle attached to the business end, the handle having a gripping portion and a longitudinal axis, wherein a knob is provided at the gripping portion of the handle, the knob being disposed such that it projects away from the handle in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the handle.

2. (Withdrawn) The hand-held instrument of claim 1 wherein the knob projects away from the handle by a distance of less than four inches.

3. (Withdrawn) The hand-held instrument of claim 1 wherein the hand-held instrument is chosen from the group of hand-held instruments consisting of baseball bats, tennis racquets, golf clubs, javelins, hockey sticks, pole vault poles, cricket bats, ski poles, hand gun stocks, rifle and shotgun stocks, archery bows, rakes, picks, mattocks, hoes, long-reach trimmers, brooms, weed whackers, chain saws, wheel barrows, weed whackers, machetes, large knives, cleavers, tenderizers and cooking pans.

4. (Withdrawn) The hand-held instrument of claim 1 wherein the knob is removably attached to the gripping portion of the handle.

5. (Withdrawn) The hand-held instrument of claim 1 wherein the knob is removably attached to the gripping portion of the handle by a quick release connection device.

6. (Withdrawn) The hand-held instrument of claim 1 wherein the knob is a thumb spur.

7. (Withdrawn) The hand-held instrument of claim 6 wherein the thumb spur has a central portion which comprises an elastomeric material.

8. (Withdrawn) The hand-held instrument of claim 6 wherein the thumb spur is removably attached at the gripping portion of the handle.

9. (Withdrawn) The hand-held instrument of claim 6 wherein the thumb spur is removably attached to the gripping portion of the handle by a quick release attachment device.

Claims 10-13 (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A hand-held instrument comprising:
 (a) a business end;
 (b) a handle attached to the business end, the handle having a gripping portion and a longitudinal axis, a thumb spur being provided at the gripping portion of the handle, the thumb spur being disposed such that it projects away from the handle in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the handle; and
 (c) a chrysalis, the chrysalis being wrapped around the gripping portion of the handle and being secured to the handle by the thumb spur.

15. (Withdrawn) The hand-held tool of claim 1 wherein the knob is a basket.

16. (Withdrawn) The hand-held instrument of claim 15 wherein the basket comprises at least one large opening and one smaller opening.

17. (Withdrawn) The hand-held instrument of claim 15 wherein the basket further comprises a forward facing C-shaped opening.

18. (Withdrawn) The hand-held instrument of claim 15 wherein the basket is removably attached to the gripping portion of the handle.

19. (Withdrawn) The hand-held instrument of claim 15 wherein the basket is removably attached to the gripping portion of the handle by a quick release attachment device.

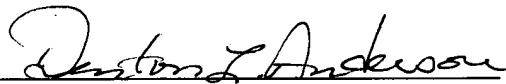
20. (Withdrawn) The hand-held instrument of claim 19 wherein the quick release attachment device comprises a male connection pin and wherein the gripping portion of the handle is provided with at least one female receptor capable of accepting and firmly retaining the male connection pin.

It is believed that there is no fee due for the filing of this document. However, if this belief is in error, the Commissioner is authorized to pay any fee required for the filing of this document from Deposit Account No. 19-2090.

Respectfully submitted,

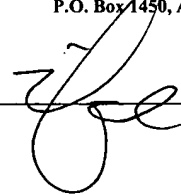
SHELDON & MAK

Date: September 22, 2004

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I hereby certify that on September 22, 2004, I deposited with the U.S. Postal Service
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